

College Guild

PO Box 6448 Brunswick, Maine 04011

Drawing From the Inside Out

Unit 4 of 7

UNIT 4: The Magic of Line

*"Go to your chest. Knock there, and ask your
heart what it doth know."*

~ William Shakespeare



With a simple line, mindfully observed and tenderly applied, a magical drawing can be created. The line is a direct expression of how we feel about what we are seeing...if we do it with a relaxed and open manner. The artist should not think of a mental image which is in the mind, like a habitual way of thinking about it. One needs to be open to what is really presented and what our feeling is about what we see.

There are three drawings done with tender observation here. We want you to choose one of them to get the feel of what the artist is doing and perhaps what s/he may have been feeling. See the casual way the line is used, sometimes only a vague sense of the actual model or object. Sometimes the line simply evaporates into air.

Assignment 1:

1. Copy the drawing you have chosen, feel the way the artist may have felt when he drew the lines as s/he did. Take no more than ten minutes for this drawing.

Assignment 2:

2. Now choose a person, scene or object in your environment. Draw it in the same casual manner, not trying to get every detail, just those lines that you feel are important to convey the feeling this scene gives to you. Take as long as you wish, but do not labor the lines.

Assignment 3:

3. For both of these drawings, write underneath what mood you are portraying -- both in the copy drawing and in your original drawing. If there is more than one mood, write them all.

Assignment 4:

4. Now, take a view to the future: Make a line drawing of some event in your future that you could look forward to -- like a best possibility for you in your future. Get a feeling of that place, how you are feeling and why it is important to you. Use your pencil or pen freely and even lovingly -- this is your possibility and it matters. Label that drawing with how it feels to you as you draw it. Get in touch with yourself and your wishes. Take as long as you wish.



The turned-around drawing position for pure contour drawing.

Remember: First names only & please let us know if your address changes